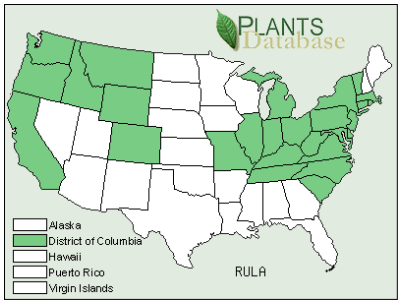
Cutleaf Blackberry

Rubus laciniatus Willd.

Common Names: cutleaf blackberry, evergreen blackberry, cutleaf bramble, laciniate bramble, parsley-leaf bramble

Native Origin: Europe

Description: An erect, spreading evergreen shrub in the rose family (Rosaceae) growing 2 – 6 feet in height. Stems are erect when young, but arch to touch the ground as they grow and root at the nodes. Stems are heavily ribbed, purplish-red and are usually prickly or bristly. New stems (canes) are produced each year and usually die after flowering and fruiting in the second year. Leaves are alternate and palmately compound with 3 to 5 highly lacerated leaflets. The leaves are green to greenish-red above and paler below and armed with prickles. The white flowers appear from late spring to early summer. Flowers are about 1 inch across, borne in clusters, and are monoecious (male and female parts on the same flower). Juicy, edible, black berries about 1 inch long are produced in tight clusters. Plants reproduce by seed and stems rooting when in contact with the soil.



Habitat: It is found in woodland edges, fence rows, and clearings. It requires full sun and dry soil.

Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CA, IN, NJ, OR, PA, WA, and WV.

Ecological Impacts: This aggressive shrub forms dense prickly thickets or brambles that take up large amounts of space and the prickles also cause movement through an area difficult. This plant has become a serious weed in sunny natural ecosystems.

Control and Management: Decline will occur in forested areas as the forest develops and shade increases.

- **Manual**- Mow several times a year; burn sites.
- **Also**-Goats will readily eat young or new blackberry/raspberry canes—when they are still soft and green. Mowing a patch down, then putting goats on the new vegetation will speed up the effects of mowing alone.

- **Chemical**- It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate, metsulfuron-methyl, or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.

- **Biological Control**- *Phragmidium violaceum,* a rust fungus, has been introduced as a biological control agent for invasive blackberries in Australia, New Zealand, and Chile. A rust disease has recently caused dieback on plants of blackberry and raspberry (Rubus spp.) in Oregon.

References: www.forestimages.org, http://plants.usda.gov, www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm
Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, an Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005 p. 159-160, http://www.cnr.vt.edu/DENDRO/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=251
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